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Outcomes Documents – Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday August 17, 2022, 2:00 pm

Location: SWCD Conservation Office 2008 Mahogany St. Ste #3 Mora MN 55051
Or Remote Webex Meeting

SUPERVISORS: Norma Heggernes, Jon Sanford, Kim Johnson

STAFF: Deanna Pomije, Jerah Mattson, Shannon Bodle, Brian Steffen, Mary Krueger*

Absent: Kevin Belkholm, Gene Carda *Remote Attendees

1. 2:05 Roll Call – *Approval of Agenda

Motion by Johnson, second by Sanford approve the agenda as presented with an addition of the Knife River Project payment approval, added to item 5.3.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

- 2. NRCS Report** –Brian Steffen the acting team lead for 120 days. NRCS staff have been working on EQIP applications for FY23. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) applications are being reviewed for re-enrollment. The USDA is currently receiving substantial Inflation Reduction Act funds, more details yet to come. This is expected to double the NRCS funds for the next 10 years. They reviewed briefly some of the available NRCS conservation easement options, such as the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (2 options: 30 yrs. or perpetual). Flyers were passed around for upcoming events taking place in surrounding counties with various agencies.

3. *Consent Agenda (no discussion unless Supervisor requests)

3.1. Financial – receipts & disbursements, balance sheet, profit & loss reports

3.2. Outcomes Document:
▪ Kanabec SWCD Board –July 20, 2022

3.3. Staff Reports

3.4. Upcoming Staff Meetings / Outreach / Training

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Johnson requested the following items pulled out for discussion under agenda item 8: the new Kanabec County part B complete groundwater Atlas report, the RIM easement update on the process and the section on 1w1p meetings updates.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

4. *Approve Treasurer’s Report

Motion by Heggernes second by Sanford to approve the July 2022 Treasurer’s Report as is presented by Johnson

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5. Project Updates, in consent agenda – any questions.

5.1. *Lawns to Legumes payment voucher for trees planted, contract #L2L.2022.02

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to approve \$879.40 payment voucher to cover a partial payment on trees planted.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

5.2. Project Prioritizing Options – Pomije mentioned some ideas on how to best prioritize projects for staff time focus. These ideas included such things as where/which grants currently have funds, (Currently we have grant funds available: State Cost Share FY20-21 – expiring this year, already encumbered for a shoreland restoration project on Fish Lake. Also have Knife River grant funds – expiring 12/31/23 and a focus on promoting and processing Reinvest in MN conservation easements.) also focusing on priorities expressed in our 5-year strategic plan. Comments were made that staff is doing a LOT of work, spread a little thin. An idea was presented for the finance/personnel committee to look seriously into funding for new staff.

5.3. *Knife River Project

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to authorize Pomije to approve payment on contract #KR.2022.01 for a two completed cattle watering facility pads not to exceed the contracted amount of \$2,145.00.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

6. Public Input - none presented

7. Business Section

7.1. Fair Outreach follow-up, attendance, ideas for 2024.

Discussion took place evaluating the benefits of this year’s Fair event. Most thought the fair booth attendance was worthwhile, especially manning the booth during the busiest times. About \$50 was spent on candy give aways for both the conservation and AIS booths. A suggestion was made for next year to look into purchasing low-cost kid’s prizes from the National Symbols Cache – Woodsy the Owl. Staff will investigate the cost of a new fair table-top display board and present to the board. There were 60 raffle entries for the pollinator basket.

7.2. Snake 1W1P Planning Update

Pomije provided a brief update on the last PC meeting and the Snake planning process. She asked the board if they would like any further presentation on the plan prior to approving the plan in Oct. for submission to BWSR for their 90-day final review. They declined a further presentation. The 60-day state agency review of the plan is due up on 9/5/22 with public meeting planned for 9/20 with the Kanabec and Pine Co. Boards.

Motion by Sanford, second by Sanford to authorize Pomije to submit plan comments for the inclusion of the factual information that was omitted in reference to the Mille Lacs Tribal Band.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

7.3. *2023 SWCD Preliminary Budget – present in Aug. to Co. Board
Pomije presented the latest on our 2023 Budget, this included a review of our operational budget details and our updated grant funds over the next three years. This discussion led to a renewed recommendation for our county allocation request; instead of the previously approved 4% increase, to instead request an added \$6,000 on top of the normal \$30,352 amount. This addition is to go towards the purchase of a new no-till drill for rent to help facilitate cover crop, pasture/hayland and wildlife habitat no-till plantings.

7.4. *AIS Expense

Kanabec Co Fair – AIS basket raffle, \$65.22 There were 106 raffle entries for the AIS basket.

Motion by Sanford, second by Johnson to approve the AIS Expense of \$65.22 to cover the cost of the basket raffle items.

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

8. Discussion Session:

The shoreland project near the delta of Knife River was discussed. The latest communication with the landowner was discussed. This resulted in the previously discussed boy scout project as not being feasible as the landowner wishes for hard armor to be placed in this project site, even though they are choosing not to contribute funds towards this project site. The board raised concerns over staff time spent on this project development without landowner willingness to commit to this project.

Completed Kanabec County Groundwater Atlas, part B - Pomije will send out the link to view this report online. A future Co. Board meeting will include a presentation on this report from DNR staff.

The procedure for processing RIM applications was reviewed briefly. The next biggest step for received applications is to gather items to submit a full application packet to BWSR for further processing, this involves such things as title searches or any needed abstract work. The final step is the official closing on the easement.

9. Set Next Meeting Dates / Committee Reports – next meeting dates

- TBD (4th Monday) – SRWMB Meeting TBD, courthouse basement, 9-noon (Belkholm, Pomije)
- 8/11/22 – Kettle 1W1P PC, Sandstone, 9am (Johnson)
- 8/16/22 – Co. Board Meeting, present our 2023 Budget (Pomije, Sanford)
- 8/20/22 – Starry Trek, AIS Educational Event on Starry Stonewort, 9am-1pm, Mora Library Park
Volunteers can still sign-up, contact Steph Paulsen (6 plus 2 staff sign-up) (Paulsen, Pomije)
- 9/8-9/9/22 – Area 3 Annual Meeting, Aitkin hosting at Long Lake Conservation Center \$140 each
(Supervisor, staff?)
- 9/20/22 – Tentative – Snake Comp. Plan Public Hearing, with Kanabec Co. Board Mtg., Courthouse
(Pomije, Belkholm) Another planned for Pine Co. the same week, TBD
- **9/21/22 – Regular SWCD Board Meeting, 2pm** (all)
- 9/26/22 – Snake PC Meeting, Mora Courthouse, 9am (Pomije, Mattson, Belkholm)

- 9/28/22 – Technical Service Area 3 (TSA), 10am, conf. room remotely (Johnson, Pomije)
- 10/14/22 – COLA – AIS Meeting, 5pm SWCD office (Sanford, Pomije)

*Seeking Supervisor report on meeting attended

10. Evaluate the Meeting – What worked? What needs further discussion?

11. 4:06 pm Adjourn Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Sanford second by Johnson to adjourn meeting at 4:06pm

Affirmative: Sanford, Johnson, Heggernes

Opposed: None **Abstain:** None

***Seeking Board Decisions**